

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



[www.townofnorthandover.com/recycle](http://www.townofnorthandover.com/recycle)

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Spring 2009



## Join in this spring!

Spring is here and we have a lot planned, so mark your calendars! In this issue, you will find information about the following upcoming events:

- Household Hazardous Waste Day – Saturday, April 18
- Rain Barrel Sales and Distribution – At Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, April 18
- Spring Collection of Yard Waste – Weeks of April 27 and May 4
- Town-Wide Earth Day Cleanup – Saturday, May 2
- Shredding Palooza – Saturday, May 16
- Reuse-A-Shoe Collection – At the Shredding Palooza on May 16
- Town-Wide Yard Sales – Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28



## Love the earth with Earth Day action

North Andover is holding its seventh annual Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our annual cleanup is a great way to take some Earth Day action right here in North Andover. You and your family, a group of neighbors, a scout troop, civic organization, or church group can adopt a street, park, or other area to clean up. Not sure where to go? We will be happy to recommend a place in need of attention.

Wheelabrator will once again be donating the use of a super-sized dumpster for the weekend. On Monday morning, they'll haul the dumpster and trash away, disposing of it free of charge. Let's make the most of this generous offer! On Cleanup Day, you simply deliver any trash you collect back to the DPW, where you can put it directly into the dumpster.

Also supporting our event will be Whole Foods Market, which will donate water and yummy snacks. When you check in the morning of the cleanup, be sure to pick up a snack for later.

Our check-in table will open at 8:30 a.m. at the DPW, which is located at 384 Osgood Street. When you check in, you'll get thick contractor trash bags and gloves. If you have a favorite pair of

gloves, we suggest you use your own. At check-in you will also receive a cell phone number to call if you need help hauling your bags back to the dumpster.

If you're independent-minded, feel free to do your cleanup whenever it fits your weekend schedule. Just be sure to drop off your full bags by Sunday evening. The dumpster will be removed first thing Monday morning. Also, be sure to email us at the address below so we know where you will be cleaning up, and the great contribution you will be making.

To participate, send an email to [recycle@townofnorthandover.com](mailto:recycle@townofnorthandover.com) with the number of volunteers in your party and the streets(s) you will be cleaning up, or with your request for an area assignment. We're keeping a list so we can ensure that as many areas as possible are "adopted" and cleaned up.

If you have a pickup truck, we could use your help to pick up bags during and after the cleanup. Email us to volunteer for that, also!

In the past, nearly 1,000 residents have picked up over 300 cubic yards of trash and litter from North Andover's streets and public spaces. Thank you! We hope to see you again this year for some renewed Earth Day action!



## It's time for the Shredding Palooza!

This year, our Shredding Palooza, which allows you to protect yourself from identity theft, will be combined with another great event, our annual sneaker collection. The combined event will take place on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the DPW, which is located at 384 Osgood Street.

The featured event at the Shredding Palooza is, of course, paper shredding to allow you to witness the secure disposal of your personal and business documents. Your first box of paper will be shredded for free. Each subsequent box will be charged at a rate of \$10 per box. (For this event, a "box" is a standard file box—not a box that would have held a new washing machine!) The shredding will be done

on-site by Universal Shredding of Georgetown. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Mello at Universal Shredding at 978-352-8567.

After you've taken care of your paper, drop off your used athletic shoes so they can be given a new life as athletic surfaces through the Reuse-A-Shoe program. A recycling shoe company separates sneakers into three parts: rubber from the outsole, foam from the midsole, and fabric from the shoe's upper. The rubber from the outsole, along with factory scrap, is turned into soccer, football, and baseball fields, as well as flooring for weight rooms. The foam from the midsole is used to create synthetic basketball courts, tennis courts, and playground sur-

face tiles. The fabric from the uppers becomes the padding under hardwood basketball floors. Not a bad second life for a pair of old, worn-out sneakers! You can drop off any brand of athletic shoes, but the shoes can have NO metal parts (eyelets or cleats)!



## What's a hazardous waste?

Look around your home and, chances are, you'll find some "household hazardous waste" (HHW). HHW includes old chemicals that your family no longer wants or needs, as well as outdated products.

Even though HHW is a kind of waste, it should never go into your household trash! Not only can HHW contaminate the soil and water near landfills, but it can also harm the workers who pick up and handle your trash. When hazardous waste is mixed with household trash, toxic fumes and burning liquids can injure trash workers. And, flammable materials can even cause explosions inside the trash trucks.

HHW requires special disposal to be sure that workers and our environment are kept safe. To help your family get rid

of HHW safely, the Town of North Andover will have a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the DPW, which is located at 384 Osgood Street. On this day, you can dispose of your hazardous wastes free of charge.

Your family will be able to drop off items such as these for safe disposal:

- Household, garden, pool, and unknown chemicals and poisons
- Automotive fluids, including oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, and other fluids

For a complete list of materials that will and will not be accepted, go to [www.townofnorthandover.com/recycle](http://www.townofnorthandover.com/recycle) and click on Household Hazardous Waste.

**Rain barrel sale and distribution**

Also on Saturday, April 18, you can pick up your rain barrel. The New England Rain Barrel Company makes 55-gallon, blue, recycled-content plastic rain barrels. They come with a super-safe lid that is permanently affixed with just a 6" mesh-covered opening at the top. The barrels have two spigots, one for a garden hose and one for an overflow. Gardens and house plants love rainwater. Collecting rainwater also helps to reduce storm water runoff and to recharge our groundwater supply. The rain barrels can be ordered by calling the New England Rain Barrel Company at 978-977-3135 or online at [www.nerainbarrel.com](http://www.nerainbarrel.com). The purchase price is \$72.50. If you place your order by April 10, your rain barrel will be available for pickup on April 18 between 9 a.m. and noon.



# 10 tips for Greener Cleaning



(c) Ivonne Wierink / SnapVillage.com

## Read more about it!

**485 Ways to Clean, Polish, Disinfect, Deodorize, and Remove Stains**  
*Clean and Green: The Complete Guide to Nontoxic and Environmentally Safe Housekeeping* by Annie Berthold-Bond (Ceres Press, 1994)

**All-Purpose Cleaners Buying Guide**  
[www.thegreenguide.com/buying-guide/all-purpose-cleaners](http://www.thegreenguide.com/buying-guide/all-purpose-cleaners)

**Clean Your House Without Hurting the Planet**  
[www.grist.org/advice/possessions/2003/03/18/possessions-cleaning/](http://www.grist.org/advice/possessions/2003/03/18/possessions-cleaning/)

**Greener Cleaning**  
[www.thegreenguide.com/home-garden/cleaning](http://www.thegreenguide.com/home-garden/cleaning)

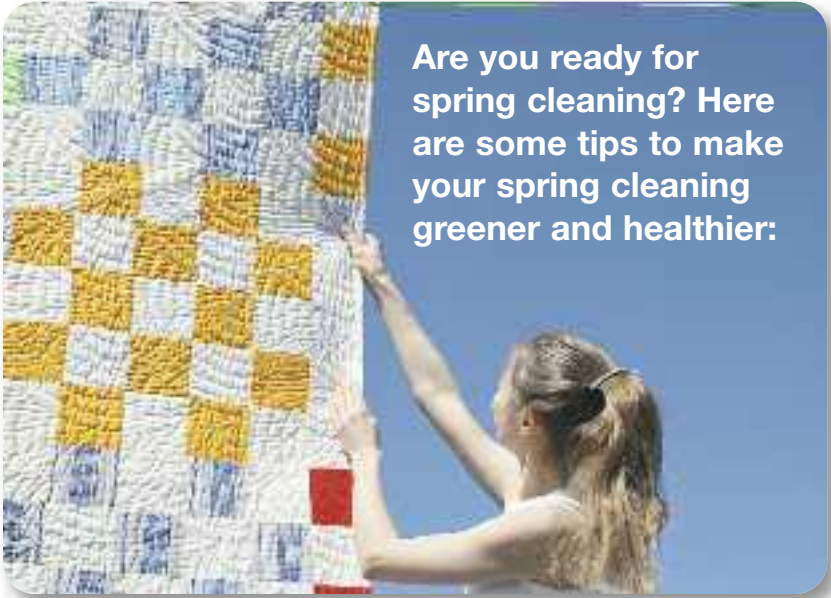
**How to Go Green: Cleaning**  
<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/green-cleaning/>

**How to Make a Non-Toxic Cleaning Kit**  
[www.care2.com/greenliving/make-your-own-non-toxic-cleaning-kit.html](http://www.care2.com/greenliving/make-your-own-non-toxic-cleaning-kit.html)

**Non-Toxic Home Cleaning**  
[www.eartheasy.com/live\\_nontoxic\\_solutions.htm](http://www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm)

**A Test of Green Cleaners**  
[www.grist.org/advice/products/2008/03/25/](http://www.grist.org/advice/products/2008/03/25/)

(c) Anika Salsara / SnapVillage.com



Are you ready for spring cleaning? Here are some tips to make your spring cleaning greener and healthier:

1. Open the windows. After the house has been closed up for most of the winter, the best thing to do is to give it a good airing out. On a pleasant spring day, throw open the windows and give the house a few hours to breathe in the fresh air.
2. Think mechanical first. A scrub brush, a dish scrubber, and a retired toothbrush can provide a lot of cleaning power with no chemicals at all. Drain baskets keep drains free of debris that can lead to clogs.
3. Use up chemicals that you have on hand before purchasing replacement products. If you have cleaners stored in multiple locations (some in the laundry room, others under the kitchen sink, and a few in the garage), find them and inventory what you have available.
4. Consider creating your own cleaners from common household products, such as vinegar, baking soda, salt, lemon juice, and mineral oil. Many of these cleaners are easy to make, effective, and less expensive than pre-mixed chemical solutions. (Remember that even homemade cleaners can be irritating to skin and eyes. Always use caution in mixing, storing, and using homemade cleaners.)

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## On the GO

If you're trying to trim your expenses, you may be walking or biking more. Walking and biking are good for your health and your pocketbook. Of course, they are also better for our environment because walking and biking don't require fuel or spew out emissions.

However, if you like to take a cup of coffee with you when you leave the house, what are you supposed to do? Reusable travel mugs are fine if you are walking, but may not be fully leak-proof when you bike. There's a simple, waste-free solution—thermal or canteen bottles. The thermal-style bottles keep hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold. These bottles can be sealed, so you can put them into a backpack or bag without worrying about leaks and spills. Many have a built-in loop to allow you to hang the bottle from your handle bars. Others have insulated pouches with handles or loops. Still others will fit right into your bike's water bottle holder.

If your drink of choice is water or a sports drink, you can use the same style bottles. Simply fill the clean bottle with tap water or sports drink from your gallon jug.

Look for leak-proof thermal bottles at local stores. Many carry these bottles and accessories. Or, go online and search for "thermo bottles."



(c) Chrstock / SnapVillage.com

5. If you choose to purchase a cleaning product, choose the mildest and most benign chemical product available. Although it is not mandatory, a few manufacturers do voluntarily provide a complete list of ingredients. Try to select products that provide you complete information on ingredients, offer the most clear instructions on use, and don't require extraordinary safety measures for use or disposal.
6. When you purchase products or containers, look for recycled-content and recyclable containers. Rather than using paper towels, use reusable towels and old rags. If you purchase paper towels, please choose those made from recycled-content paper.
7. Buying concentrates reduces packaging waste. Some cleaning products are now sold in concentrated form; you finish making the solution by adding tap water at home. Other products, such as laundry detergent, are concentrated and ready to use when you get home. Remember—if you have softened water, you can use even less detergent.
8. Keep unfinished products in their original, labeled containers. *Never* pour potentially harmful chemicals into food or beverage containers for storage. Store all cleaning products out of reach of children and away from pets. Do not store potentially hazardous materials close to sources of heat or in direct sunlight.
9. Dispose of containers and unused chemicals properly. Follow the label instructions. If the instructions are unclear, call the manufacturer for more details or call us.
10. Make sure everyone in your family knows about your new "greener cleaning" habits.

# Hope for harried readers Planet Green

“Like money, books must be kept in constant circulation. Lend and borrow to the maximum.”

At a time when many have had to tighten their belts, novelist Henry Miller offers good advice for readers. Enjoying a good book doesn't require buying a new copy or even owning it. Books can be borrowed, shared, and swapped. The pleasure is the same, but the cost is less.

The library is, of course, the least expensive way to enjoy good books. You can borrow from the local library's many resources. All you need is a library card.

Another option is used bookstores. When you buy used books, you often pay only one-quarter to one-half of the original price. Some of the "used" books have never even been read. Many secondhand stores sell books, and books are a common item at garage sales, as well.

Sharing books with friends is free. Often, you and your friends enjoy the same types of books or authors. You can also spread your enthusiasm for a book that you couldn't put down by passing it along to a new reader.

In addition to these local resources, there are many online options as well:

- Book Crossing is a program that allows people to "read and release"

books. If you want to release a book or are hunting for one, visit [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com).

- Several sites offer readers the chance to trade one or more books with other readers, usually for just the cost of shipping. For more information about book swaps by mail, visit [www.bookins.com](http://www.bookins.com), [www.bookmooch.com](http://www.bookmooch.com), [www.paperbackswap.com](http://www.paperbackswap.com), or [www.swaptree.com](http://www.swaptree.com).
- If you've ever wondered why there isn't a "Netflix" for books, your wait is over. BookSwim allows readers to rent books. This concept is not new. Before the age of downloadable audiobooks, readers could rent books on tape (and later on CD) by mail. Now, readers can rent bestsellers at a fraction of the purchase price. For more information, go to [www.bookswim.com](http://www.bookswim.com).

Books aren't the only media that can be borrowed, shared, swapped, or purchased used, of course. The same applies to DVDs and CDs, as well as many magazines.

You don't have to give up at-home entertainment, but you can lower its cost by lending and borrowing to the maximum.



(c) FutureDigitalDesign / SnapVillage.com

If you have a pay-TV service, such as cable or satellite, you may be getting the Planet Green network. If you enjoy the Discovery channel, you'll like Planet Green.

Planet Green offers a variety of original programs. If you love home renovation or want to know how to live an everyday green life, you'll be able to watch shows like *Living With Ed*, *Renovation Nation*, *Total Wrecklamation*, *Wa\$ted!*, *World's Greenest Homes*, *Focus Earth*, and *Greenovate*. Maybe you're more interested in food. Check out *Emeril Green* or *Supper Club*. If you're wondering what is new in transportation, catch an episode of *Mean Green Machines*. Do you love entertainment news? Watch *Hollywood Green*. How about a game show? Play along with *Go for the Green*.

In addition to the programming, you'll find "Go Green" tips at the website, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/>, along with games and video clips. There is even a convenient "channel finder" — all you need to know is your ZIP code and your pay-TV service provider.

## QUOTES REQUOTED



The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.

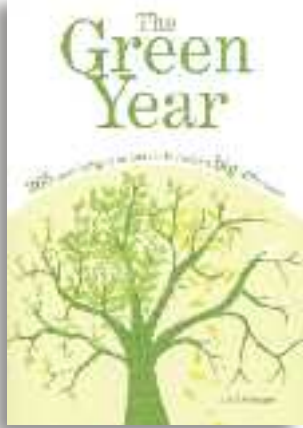
Wendell Berry, 1934—  
American farmer and poet

## Greening your year

Looking for small steps that will make a big difference? Check out *The Green Year: 365 Small Things You Can Do to Make a Big Difference* by Jodi Helmer (Penguin Group, 2008). This book has one simple idea for each day of the year.

Each page also has a spot for you to check off that you've done the activity or to write your own alternative that will work better for you and your family.

The ideas include reducing waste, saving energy, and much more. Some days suggest things that you probably already do—or have thought about doing—such as replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents and sharing magazines. Other days give you new and fun ideas. For instance, when you stop at your favorite ice cream shop, don't get ice cream in a cup. Instead, order your ice cream in an edible and waste-free cone. Here's another one: Clean out your car's trunk or cargo area and improve your gas mileage. According to Helmer, an extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce your fuel efficiency by 2 percent.



## CLIP AND SAVE

(c) Maypop / SnapVillage.com



Each year in the U.S., gas-powered lawn mowers consume more than 720 million gallons of gasoline. At the same time, these mowers spit out harmful air pollutants and disturb the peace and quiet of our spring and summer days.

However, gas-powered mowers aren't the only way to keep your lawn looking good. Electric mowers are quieter and exhaust-free. Some electric mowers need an extension cord, but many of the newer ones contain a rechargeable battery. With battery-powered models, you simply plug in the mower to charge it and then unplug it while you cut the grass. These cordless mowers are heavier and a bit more difficult to maneuver than the corded models. Neither type requires oil changes or gasoline. You do have the cost for electricity, but that may be as little as \$5-10 per year.

Another—and even more environmentally friendly—option is a manual reel lawn mower. Here are just a few of the great reasons to use a reel mower:

- Reel mowers leave behind healthier grass plants because they "snip" the grass, cutting it in the same way that a pair of scissors would. (Powered rotary mowers actually tear the grass blades.)
- Manual mowers don't need gasoline, so an empty gas can will never change your plans. They also don't require an electrical charge, so you don't have to remember to plug them in.
- Push reel mowers produce no harmful emissions and emit no exhaust into your face and your neighborhood's air.
- Manual mowers are whisper-quiet, allowing you to hear your children playing and to enjoy the birds chirping. You can still listen to your music on headphones, but you won't have to!
- You'll enjoy a brisk walk and some resistance training while you mow.
- Reel mowers are virtually maintenance-free. Occasionally, the bearings and cutting edges may need a little lubricant and a slight adjustment. The cutters will need to be sharpened every couple of years.
- You'll never struggle with the pull cord on a manual mower. Simply start walking and the mower starts, too.
- Reel mowers take less space in the garage or shed.
- Push reel mowers are the cheapest to purchase, operate, and maintain.

A manual reel mower isn't right for every yard. The mowers are best suited to smaller yards, such as those that are 10,000 square feet (about one-quarter acre) or less. However, many of today's yards are no bigger than this.

If you'd like more information about reel mowers (or about electric mowers), ask at your hardware store, lawn and garden center, or home supply store. You can also learn more at [www.cleanaingardening.com](http://www.cleanaingardening.com), [www.planetnatural.com](http://www.planetnatural.com), [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com), [www.reelin.com](http://www.reelin.com), or [www.reelmowerguide.com/](http://www.reelmowerguide.com/).





**Spring Sheep Shearing** – Come join us for the revived North Andover Spring Sheep Shearing at the Town Common on Sunday, May 17. This traditional family event is returning after a one-year hiatus while our Town Common was being renovated. Come enjoy the new Common, sheep shearing, and other family-oriented activities! NASWAC will have a table to answer all of your solid waste questions!

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**Spring Collection of Yard Waste** – The curbside collection of sticks, branches, small limbs, and leaves that came down during the late fall and winter is scheduled for April 27 through May 8 on your regular trash collection day. Place all limbs with the butt end toward the curb. Materials will be fed directly into a chipper which can accept limbs and branches of up to 3" in diameter. After May 8, residents are welcome to pick up wood chips at the Cyr Recycling Center on Sharpners Pond Road. These wood chips make great mulch around plants to help keep the roots moist.

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**Compost Bins for Sale** – The town of North Andover sells compost bins for only \$50 and kitchen scrap buckets (for your fruit and vegetable scraps) for only \$3. For details, email us at [recycle@townofnorthandover.com](mailto:recycle@townofnorthandover.com).

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**Annual Bike Bank** – The North Andover Rotary Club will hold its annual Bike Bank collection on Saturday, May 9. Used bikes in good working condition (inflatable tires and working brakes) may be dropped off at the Knights of Columbus (Camelot Hall) parking lot on Sutton Street between 8 a.m. and noon. Rotarians clean up the bikes and distribute them, along with a new bike helmet, at no charge to needy children throughout the Greater Lawrence community. If you have an unused bicycle in working order, please consider donating it to this worthy cause. This Rotary event is made possible through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and Northeast Storage of North Andover.

*We want your suggestions, questions and comments!*

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*Please recycle this publication after you have read it!*

# NORTH ANDOVER RECYCLING AT A GLANCE

North Andover now has single-stream recycling!  
That means all recyclables can go in ONE appropriately marked container. No need to separate!

WHAT	YES	NO	HOW	WHERE & WHEN
PLASTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All # 1 thru # 7 plastic containers with recycle symbol</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No other plastic containers</li><li>No other symbols or numbers on bottom</li><li>No plastic bags</li><li>No caps</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rinse clean</li><li>Collapse or string together</li><li>Labels OK</li></ul>	<p>All recycling must be curbside by 7:00 A.M.</p> <p><b>Recycling Is Mandatory</b></p> <p>Curbside pickup every week on same day as your trash</p> <p>If you missed your collection date or do not have a recycling pickup, take your recyclables to the <b>NEW TBI Recycling Facility</b> at 210 Holt Road, North Andover. Hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. Closed Sunday.</p>
STEEL "TIN" CANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Food and beverage cans</li><li>Magnetic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No aerosol cans</li><li>No other metal objects</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rinse clean</li><li>If possible, remove lids and flatten</li><li>Labels OK</li></ul>	
GLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All colors of glass</li><li>Food and beverage glass</li><li>Bottles and jars</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No other glass items</li><li>No broken glass</li><li>No sheet or window glass</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rinse clean</li><li>Labels OK</li><li>Remove lids</li></ul>	
PAPER, ETC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Newspapers with inserts</li><li>Junk mail, magazines, phone books</li><li>Corrugated cardboard in newspaper-sized bundle</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No soiled paper</li><li>No plastic bags</li><li>No waxed or foil backed boxes of paper</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Place in paper bags or tie in bundles no larger than 18" X 18" X 6" high</li><li>Or place in lidded recycling bin</li></ul>	
ALUMINUM CANS, PIE PLATES, FOIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Non-magnetic</li><li>Deposit &amp; non-deposit cans</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rinse clean</li></ul>	

Put recyclables in a lidded bin marked for recycling OR use red bins with recyclables in paper bags.

For every ton recycled, the town saves \$65 in garbage tipping fees. This frees up funds for services like schools, police, and fire. Recycle!

FOR INFORMATION, CALL THE DPW AT (978) 685-0950,  
CALL THE HOTLINE AT 1-800-800-6881,  
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.townofnorthandover.com/recycle](http://www.townofnorthandover.com/recycle)

# Are you ready for the Town-Wide Yard Sales?

## North Andover is having yard sales all over town!

NASWAC is organizing the annual Town-Wide Yard Sales for Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28. Eliminate some of your clutter, make a little extra money, and provide useful things to someone who will use them. It's easy to participate!

Here is how it works: Download a Town-Wide Yard Sales registration form at [www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/NAndoverMA\\_Recycling/YardSaleFlyer](http://www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/NAndoverMA_Recycling/YardSaleFlyer) 2009 by June 23. Let us know if your sale will be open Saturday, Sunday, or both days, and the hours of operation. Sunday could be a rain date for those whose sales will only be held on Saturday. Then send a check for \$10 made out to the "Town of North Andover" to the DPW at 384 Osgood Street, North Andover, MA 01845. This will cover the cost of printing flyers and advertising the sales.

We will print locations of all yard sales and distribute them in town and on the town website, [www.townofnorthandover.com](http://www.townofnorthandover.com), by June 25. Local papers will advertise the event.

In past years, we have had an excellent turnout in yard sale traffic and have had reports of very satisfied yard sale hosts and buyers. Let's make this another successful reuse event for our community!

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